

THE
DECLARATION
OR,
MANIFESTO
OF

George Racokkie, Prince of *Transylvania*, to the STATES and PEERES of
HUNGARIE;

Together

With the reasons added thereunto of his modern taking up of Armes the 17.
of February, Anno 1644.

George Racokkie by the Grace of God,
Prince of *Transylvania*, Lord of a part of
the Kingdome of *HUNGARIE*, and
Count of *ZEKELLA*.

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THE
DECLARATION
OF
INDEPENDENCE

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly the people have suffered most from violent and oppressive Governments, which have been supported by the consent of the majority, for the most part, of the people. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same arbitrary design, compels a people to take arms, they are by the laws of Nature justified in doing so; and in the most extreme measure of resistance, they have a right to abolish the existing Government, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.



The Declaration or Manifesto
OF
George Racokzkie, Prince of *Transylvania*,
to the States and Peeres of *Hungarie* :

George Racokzkie by the grace of God, Prince of
Transylvania; Lord of a part of the Kingdome of
Hungarie, and Count of *ZEKELLA*;

*To the right Honourable and right Worshipfull; Our well-beloved
LORDS and GENTRY, Greeting.*

How precious, and of what high esteeme there be with every
one the liberty of the soule and body, hereof we need not
to seeke afar off many examples, nor to write thereof to
your Lordships in many words. The modern state & con-
dition of the Occidentall Provinces, doth sufficiently testifie
it; which, to reduce the aforesaid inestimable good to it's ancient State
and condition, have counted for nothing all other Temporall and preci-
ous goods; yea with hazarding, and quite losing their own lives, doe
not cease as yet to fight for it. Now seriously also the Countreyes of
Portugall and *Catalania*, who sate under the Spanish power, and taken
up Armes not in defence of the liberty of their soules, but only in defence
of their temporall liberty do labour and endeavour to settle the same in
the former condition of liberty: is not unknown to your Lordships, espe-

cially my Countrymen the *Hungarians*, how much blood they have shed for it, you how many of them have suffered death for it, We have sufficient examples there of. What troubles and miseries Our Nation especially these years last past have suffered in this case, hereof whole boordes of teares will be to be found with us. How often also We have not only been admonished, but also quite forced, as well by the Protestants, as by the Roman Catholics, that Wee at last would awake, and remove the grievances, because other wise, if the oppression of the privileges and liberties should further increase and enlarge it self, Our Children and Posterity would be forced to possesse a Kingdome hereafter, that had lost all Liberty. We have been desired also by some of the high Officers and Ministers of the Crowne which have discovered unto Us, that the Clergie intends to make the Kingdom of *Hungarie* hereditarie Subject to the House of *Austria*, and withall strives to domineer both Spiritually and Temporally over the fellow Members of their Religion, & to keep them under. It is not unknown to your Lordships, how many complaints there have bin made against those last Wills and Testament, that have bin forced from some, and thereby the lands and goods of the right naturall heir been alienated? The Clergie hath begun also to impropriate unto it selfe the chiefeest Offices and places in the Frontier Townes of the Kingdome, and thus to pull fully out of the hands of the Temporall States and Peeres, that small Prerogative which they had left unto them: But what shall I say of the washing of the common Revenues of the whole Kingdom, and then the ruine following thereupon, which however must concern also the Clergie it selfe.

With what swiftnesse or tricks also the Jesuits are crept into the Kingdome to the utmost ruine of the libertie thereof, & of the Protestant Religion (which by all meanes and wayes is expressed) and with what unjustnesse also in the Frontier Townes themselves, those, that have *Jura Patronatus* in the Churches, are troubled: hereof your Lordships have sufficiently been enformed.

One of the Spirituall Prelates also, who is yet living with His Imperial Majesties knowledge, hath desired Us also by a confiding person, and in His Imperiall Majesties name, promised unto Us to turne over also all Our lands and goods situated in the Kingdome of *Hungarie*, to Our Heirs and Successors (which are as yet pawned to Us till they are redeemed

re-leeueth) as to his vnto they are greater and more gracious and fauour,
if it will oblige Our affections, that *Hungaria* might be an
Hereditary King to us to the house of *Austria*, but whereas neither O^r
Conscience nor also the zeale and love we beare to Our *Hungarian* na-
tion could give any to it. We returned vnto him that answer, as hath
been seeing to an *Hungaria* Prince loving his native Countrey, and
desiring the liberty of his Countrey.

Concerning the authority of the Palatine, it was laid thus, that nothing
but the mere name was left to that office; though He do sollicite some-
thing for the good of the Countrey, yet he labours in vaine; yea withall
is prohibited to do it; How zealous the Protestant States and Peeres as
well in particular as in generall have been in the Oyer, *Ann* 1638. to
sollicite that their grieuances might be redressed, but what effect after
diuers great charges and expences your Lordships have seen thereof, and
enjoyed indeed, is sufficiently manifest vnto every one.

The decree which His Imperiall Majesty caused to be imparted to the
Protestant States and Peeres, is in *Spere* in Our hands; but that not-
withstanding hereupon diuers Churches and Ministers houses have bin
taken away, and the Ministers driven out of them; to repeat all would
require a great deale more of time.

If we now consider the violation of Our corporall liberties, We finde
it, that the offices and places are conferred vpon no Protestant fellow-
Member of the Countrey, neither are they preferred to any higher digni-
ty, and if by chance one or other attains thereunto, yet he hath no ho-
nour, trust and credit with the m. Moreouer also though the Protestants
have good right or claims to some rectification, yet they labour to hinder
therein in one or other way: Yea it happened also, that one that preten-
ded a just cause to his Lands, notwithstanding by reason of a pretended
contradiction, were in extreame danger of his life about it.

When the 13. Counties in Generall in the yeare 1640. 641. 643.
petitioned his Imperiall Majesty and the Lord Palatine for the redressing
of their Grievances, what benefit & profit got your Lordships by it? yea
what unkind entertainment your Lordships Deputies had for deman-
ding of their just cause, and with what sharp and bitter words they have
been sent away againe, your Lordships have still in fresh memory; all
which, how iustly we took it to heart, so as well Our conscience, as al-

so our duty to the glory and service of God, and the love and zeale to the Libertie of Our native Country and Nation required Us, yea by some of the Protestant States and Peeres also, and not lesse by some of the Roman Catholiques, We have bene exhorted upon Our soules salvation, and in a manner bene forced, that for defence of their Liberties We would rise.

Wherefore We could suffer this no longer, nor see the apparant ruine and perdition of Our native Country and the oppression of Our Nation, which before had tryed all meanes how these inconveniences by faire meanes might have bene remedied: What answer also have We lately returned to the Lord *Kers Lane* upon the request made unto Us in His Imperiall Majesties name: How earnestly We have entreated and desired, and what We have offered, your Lordships have sufficiently understood by the said answer, whereof a true Copie We have already here before sent to your Lordships.

We take God the Lord the searcher of all hearts to Our witnesse, and We dare write it also to your Lordships in very truth, that We have taken up Arms not for Our own profit, nor out of a desire of revenge, neither also for those manifold wrongs and injuries done unto Us, nor lastly out of an intention to reforme or persecute Religion, much lesse to extirpate the same: But that We onely intend to Erect againe the Statutes and Lawes of the Kingdome, to Reestablish the same, and to proceed according to the same, insomuch that every one without feare, trouble, let or hinderance, openly may professe and exercise that same wherein his conscience is appeased, and thereby also safely to enjoy the corporall Liberty, be aide to Domincere and Rule over Consciences doth not belong to men, but to God alone.

But being our deat God hath already graciously turned off from us many hinderances, wherin principally have hitherto stood in our way, yea also drawne to Us the Outlandish hearts; We must needs conceive thereby, that it is Gods will and providence, that to the service of his glory We shall protect the Liberty of Our Native Country, whereof the glory will be rendered to God and not to men. And We beleeve therefore firmly, that his divine Majestic without all doubt will grace this Designe with a happy desired issue, and Crowne it with a joyfull end.

Wherefore We desire and exhort your Lordships friendly, that you will

will be pleased in a zealous consideration, that for your Lordships good, and upon the desire and request of many amongst you We are risen from Our peaceable Government and wholly quiet Native Country, and taken up Armes, to afford your helping hands to the furtherance of this Worke, being in it selfe well pleasing to God Almighty, that will tend to the benefit and profit not onely of your Lordships, but also of the whole Country, and of all the grieved Inhabitants thereof. And withall in this case to shew their love and zeale aswell towards God, as towards the Protestant Religion and the Liberty of their Native Country; and as soone as you have received these letters, to send unto Us one of your good Friends and Fellow Brethren, and thus to joyne with Us unanimously in the commendable furtherance and expedition of this worke.

We assure all persons, of what degree or qualitie soever they be, by Our true Christian Faith and Truth, that in no way We will disturbe or oppresse Religion, nor also that We have any intention to stirre or trouble in the least way Our deare Native Country and Nation, and so all and every one of you in Generall either now or in future time in any Right, Libertie, or Immunitie, but rather that your Lordships according to your pleasure may safely live, and yet further rejoyce in those precious Priviledges which have beene obtained long agoe with much blood.

No man shall also thinke, that if perhaps one or other hath done and shewed here before any wrong to Us, or committed any thing against Us whatsoever it bee, We would revenge Our selfe on him, and thus beare an ill will in Our heart for a future punishment; but rather that all and every the like wrong shall be buried in a perpetuall oblivion as if it had never happened or been done. We admonish therefore all and every one of what degree or qualitie soever he be, that no man retire out of the Country to another place, or forsake his Lands or Goods: for if by chance such (which We doe not hope) should be found, and We should bee forced to seize upon their Goods, they may attribute the fault and losse which thereby they may receive to no man else, but to themselves.

But in case your Lordships (against all hope and expectation) should offer to doe contrary to that what hath beene said above, We will protest hereby before God and his holy Angels, that We are not the cause
of

of the ruine and destruction which thereby will fall upon them, for otherwise We should be forced also to draw to Us so much the more stronger Ayde, and the greater number of Souldiers from Our High and Mighty Emperour, if your Lordships should oppose Us in the defence of Our Native Country, and not accomodate your selves unto Us, which Wee will not hope.

The God Almighty who rules and governees all the hearts, doe thus rule and direct the hearts and minds of your Lordships that you doe unanimously every one, putting in the meane time out of his mind all other respects, afford unto Us your helping hands, for the obtaining of that wherein consists every ones true proper benefit and profit, that, after that We have finished this happy worke, and every one of Us attained to His intention, both you and your whole Posterity may safely and peaceably enjoy both spiritual and corporall liberty till unto the end of the World, Amen. Given at Our Castle Calow the 17th of February, Anno 1644.

Georgius Raskakio

This is Printed according to Order.